

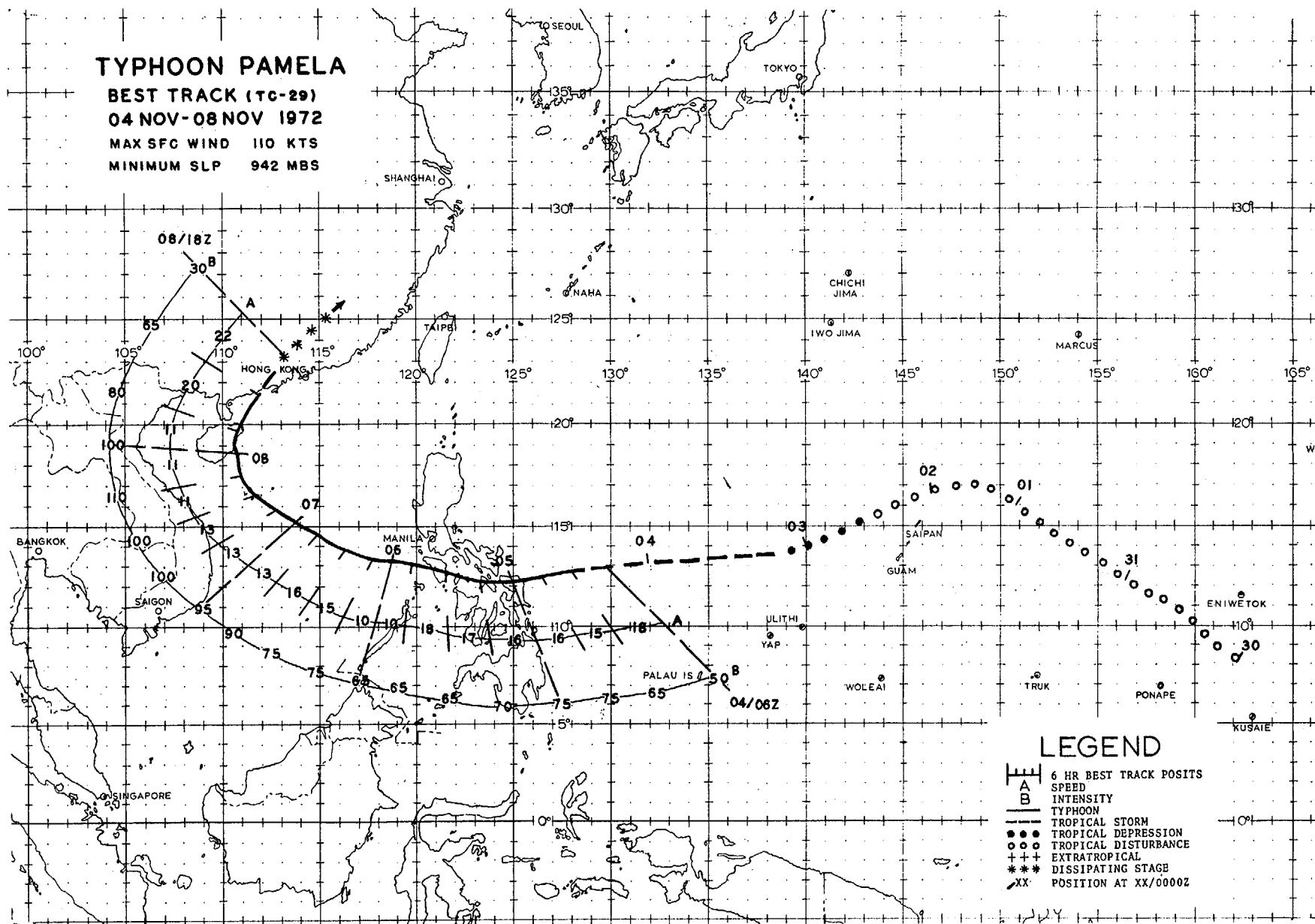
TYPHOON PAMELA

BEST TRACK (TC-29)

04 NOV-08 NOV 1972

MAX SFC WIND 110 KTS

MINIMUM SLP 942 MBS



PAMELA

It was nearly a week after detection by satellite that Pamela reached typhoon intensity, just east of Samar Island, Republic of the Philippines.

The formative stage of Pamela appeared in the eastern Carolines, on 30 October, as an area of enhanced convection. The system was poorly organized for the next several days until it entered the Philippine Sea. Satellite data indicated that tropical-storm intensity was acquired on the afternoon of 3 November as Pamela passed 250 nm north of Yap.

Reconnaissance aircraft, in the afternoon of the following day, located Pamela near 15°N and 130.5°E. The storm was poorly organized with a calm area 40 nm in diameter, a central pressure of 1004 mb, and 700-mb-level winds of 48 kt in the eastern semicircle.

Pamela traversed the Philippine Sea at 15-18 kt as she moved under the influence of a strong subtropical ridge. Satellite pictures and military aircraft radar reports indicate Pamela developed to typhoon intensity prior to her landfall on Samar.

Making landfall on northern Samar the morning of the 5th, Pamela crossed the center of the Republic of the Philippines and emerged 24 hours later west of Mindoro Island. Four fatalities and estimated damage to property and crops of over 700,000 dollars (U.S.) were reported.

Upon entering the South China Sea on the 6th, Pamela's forward speed decreased to 10 kt. Her circulation began to expand as a ship 90 nm east of the center reported winds of 60 kt from the south (06/0000 GMT). Pamela headed west-northwest for the first 18 hours, then northwest on the 7th as a trough in the mid-troposphere moved across the Indo-China peninsula.

Passing near the Paracel Islands on the evening of the 7th, reconnaissance aircraft reported a central pressure of 942 mb as Pamela reached her peak intensity of 110 kt (Figure 4-33). As she approached Hainan Island in advance of the trough, Pamela began to recurve and skirted the eastern end of the island on the 8th.

Pamela crossed the South China coast in Kwangtung Province about 180 nm west-southwest of Hong Kong. She moved inland during the evening and degenerated into an area of low pressure by the 9th.

Pamela brought strong winds to Hong Kong as gusts of 60 kt were recorded at the International Airport and 59 kt at the Royal Observatory.

As Pamela approached the southern China coast during high tide, flooding occurred in many low-lying areas of Hong Kong. One person was killed and eight were injured, but only minor property damage occurred in the colony. A freighter, SS VAN MINT, ran aground on the southern shore of Lei Yue Mun.



FIGURE 4-33. Typhoon Pamela in the South China Sea, 7 November 1972, 0300 GMT, ESSA-8 satellite.--Courtesy of Royal Observatory, Hong Kong